

1771, in which he said "that the Province Seal was broke," but that he had had it repaired and that it had been "awkwardly mended but in such manner as to answer all purposes."¹⁷

When the government of the State of North Carolina was organized, the Constitution adopted at Halifax, December 18, 1776, provided, Section XVII, "That there shall be a seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require; and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina and be affixed to all grants and commissions." The Constitutional Convention of 1835 brought this section forward unchanged.

The Convention of 1868 changed the Constitution somewhat and the Convention of 1875 brought the section referring to the seal forward as adopted in 1868, which now reads:

"Sec. 16. There shall be a seal of the State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require, and shall be called 'The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina.' All grants and commissions shall be issued in the name and by the authority of the State of North Carolina, sealed with 'The Great Seal of the State,' signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Secretary of State."

On December 22, 1776, an ordinance was passed by the Congress at Halifax appointing William Hooper, Joseph Hewes and Thomas Burke commissioners to procure a Great Seal for the State of North Carolina, but I find no record of a report being made by this commission. The ordinance provided that the Governor should use his "private seal at arms" until the Great Seal was secured. On April 29, 1778, a bill which became a law on May 2d was introduced in the House of Commons of

NOTE.—In the Constitution adopted by the free men of the State of Franklin in convention assembled at Jonesborough the 17th of December, 1784, a seal was provided for in the following section:

"Sect. 17.—That there Shall be a Seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor and used by him as Occasion may Require and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of Franklin. & be affixed to all Grants and Commissions." (C. R., Vol. 22, p. 666.)

I do not recall ever having seen a seal of the State of Franklin on the Franklin papers in this office.

¹⁷C. R., Vol. IX, p. 50.